SAHIB BAHADUR K. A. MOHAMED: May I know whether the whole hundred feet, wherever it is taken, will be required for the scheme?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I may mention to the honourable member that at a time when the Government of India intended to contribute to these roads, they wanted a hundred feet. Accordingly, this length was taken. Later on, they withdrew from their promise and we reduced the width to sixty feet. Although we have demarcated a hundred feet it will be reduced wherever it is found necessary.

SAHIB BAHADUR K. A. MOHAMED: I only want an assurance that hundred feet will not be taken.

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It would not be taken.

P. W. D. Works.

210. *SAHIB BAHADUR P. S. MOHAMED (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they know that a great portion of the works in the P. W. Department started prior to 1120 is still kept unfinished;

(b) whether they know that a major portion of the works included in the budget of 1120 and 1121 have not been begun and among those that have been begun, whether any substantial progress has been made;

(c) whether they have made any enquiry about the reasons for such inactivity in the progress of work in the P. W. D.; and

(d) if, so, the reason for the same?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: *(a)* Yes.

(b) A large part of the works included in the budget for 1120 and 1121 has not been begun but substantial progress has been made in the case of these that have been begun.

(c) Yes.

(d) The prevailing unsettled conditions.

SAHIB BAHADUR P. S. MOHAMED: Will the member please say what he means by "unsettled conditions?"

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: "The unsettled condition" relates to the food scarcity which now prevails.

SAHIB BAHADUR K. A. MOHAMED: When does the honourable member expect to face normal conditions?

MR. K. M. PAUL: May I know the steps that are taken by the Chief Engineer to counteract the prevailing difficulty?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I cannot counteract them. We give increased rates of pay.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the prevailing "unsettled condition" had affected the progress of work in the aerodrome?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Yes, it has affected that work too in a certain way. There was a time when we had to recruit fresh labourers, as a number of people ran away.

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MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether it was not on account of restricting the expenditure under maintenance and repairs?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: There was not anything like that. They have been told not to spend anything more than what was allotted.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I was referring to the reason alleged in the Appropriation Accounts. There, it is stated that restrictions have been made in the maintenance requirements.

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It was not any attempt to restrict expenditure or work, but as a result of the conditions prevailing.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know the actual saving out of the sanctioned amounts for the year 1120?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I could not tell it off-hand.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether the honourable member is aware that the total saving out of the sanctioned grant for the year 1120 is over 23 lakhs of rupees?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Possibly.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know from the Chief Engineer whether there is any scheme in contemplation so that progress can be made this year?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I am trying every possible method in order to expedite the works.

MR. K K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Can I have an idea of any scheme you have in contemplation?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: We are trying to secure local labour. We look for some big local contractor to come and assist us or we may ask honourable members of this House to try to help us in the matter. We do not leave any avenue untried.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know the unspent amount that stands to the credit of the Department?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: About 18 lakhs.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether it is for each work separately?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I cannot say.

MR. NEELAMANA R. MADHAVAN NAIR: Has the Advisory Committee made any recommendation to the Government in regard to this matter?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Advocate-General*): Sir, the honourable member has gone far out of the question.

PRESIDENT: Order, order.

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